

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00674 081218Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 081205Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3906

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, BTRA, SW

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SWEDISH BUSINESS DELEGATION HEADED BY  
CROWN PRINCE BERTIL

REF: STATE 23481

1. WIRELESS FILE FEB 7 RECEIVED TODAY QUOTES WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN AS SAYING NO REQUEST FOR PRESIDENT TO MEET WITH A SWEDISH TRADE DELEGATION HAS REACHED THE WHITE HOUSE.
2. IVEROTH, ON BEHALF OF THE SWEDISH GROUP, ASKED ME TO FORWARD GROUP'S REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT. POINTING TO GREAT PRESSURES OF PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE, I TOLD HIM I WOULD FORWARD REQUEST (STOCKHOLM 247).
3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE 23481 (WHICH CONTAINS NO GUIDANCE OR BACKGROUND) I INFORMED IVEROTH THAT DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED THAT PRESIDENT WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET WITH PRINCE BERTIL WHILE HE IS IN THE UNITED STATES. IN REPLY TO IVEROTH'S QUESTION WHETHER NEGATIVE REPLY WAS CONNECTED WITH ANDERSSON'S VIETNAM SPEECH, I EXPLICITLY STATED I HAD NO INFORMATION WHATSOEVER TO WARRANT SUCH AN ASSUMPTION.
4. EMBASSY HAS ISSUED NO PUBLIC STATEMENT IN THIS MATTER WHATSOEVER, BUT AT MY INSTRUCTIONS ACTING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER HAS ANSWERED DIRECT PRESS INQUIRIES BY STATING THAT

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GROUP HAD MADE REQUEST FOR MEETING THAT WAS FORWARDED BY

EMBASSY AND THAT WE HAVE ADVISED GROUP THAT PRESIDENT WILL BE UNABLE TO RECEIVE GROUP. THIS WAS ALREADY PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE HERE.

5. AFTONBLADET FEBRUARY 7 REPORTS: "SWEDEN'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON WACHTMEISTER RECEIVED WORD FROM WHITE HOUSE AND STATES 'THIS TURN OF EVENTS MUST BE PUT IN CONTEXT WITH SVEN ANDERSSON'S STATEMENT ON THE VIETNAM ISSUE LAST WEEK. THERE IS NO OTHER INTERPRETATION'".

6. THE SWEDISH NEWS SERVICE (TT) TICKER LATER DENIED THAT WACHTMEISTER HAD GIVEN ANY DIRECT CONFIRMATION THAT THE REFUSAL OF THE WHITE HOUSE TO RECEIVE THE DELEGATION WAS RELATED TO FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON'S VIETNAM SPEECH.

7. REGARDLESS OF THIS DENIAL, AND THE REFUSAL OF EMBASSY TO COMMENT ON LINKAGE, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT THIS LINKAGE HAS BEEN MADE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE IN THE SWEDISH PRESS. NEWSPAPERS FEBRUARY 7 AND 8, APART FROM AFTONBLADET, HAVE CARRIED RELATIVELY RESTRAINED STORIES, NOTING TENTATIVE CHARACTER OF DELEGATION PLANNING BUT ALSO, IN THE CASE OF SVENSKA DAGBLADET, TAKING ANDERSSON TO TASK FOR GRATUITOUS PROVOCATION.

8. WE WILL FOLLOW "NO COMMENT" LINE IN EVENT OF FURTHER INQUIRIES BUT WOULD APPRECIATE BACKGROUND GUIDANCE ON WHITE HOUSE DISCLAIMER THAT REQUEST WAS RECEIVED.

9. BERTIL AND IVEROTH CONTINUE TO HOPE VICE PRESIDENT COULD RECEIVE GROUP. SEE SEPARATE TELEGRAM.  
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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